



Contact: Jack Zeilenga, Assistant State Curator
2 Governor Aiken Ave., Montpelier, VT 05602
802-828-0749, Email: jack.zeilenga@vermont.gov

Location: [Vermont Supreme Court Gallery](#)
111 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

Exhibition from: October 5 – December 30, 2016
Opening Reception: Thursday, October 6, 4:00 – 7:00
Art Walk: Friday, December 2, 4:00 – 7:00 pm

Artists Website: [Kathleen Kolb](#)
[Verandah Porche](#)

September 15, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The Vermont Supreme Court Gallery presents:
Shedding Light On The Working Forest
Painting and Poetry by visual artist Kathleen Kolb
and poet Verandah Porche**

MONTPELIER, VT: [SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE WORKING FOREST](#), an exhibition of paintings and poetry, will be on view at the Vermont Supreme Court Gallery for the months of October, November and December, 2016. **An opening reception will take place on October 6th from 4 to 7 pm.**

Visual artist [Kathleen Kolb](#) and poet [Verandah Porche](#) have joined forces to create a traveling exhibition called *Shedding Light On The Working Forest* based on paintings Kolb has created about this subject over the past twenty years. This project celebrates the landscape of the working forest and the voices of those who have honed skills into a livelihood there. *Shedding Light* draws on the artistic friendship of a painter and a poet who are committed to subjects that have been largely overlooked by the arts. Kathleen Kolb evokes what is solid, luminous, yet ephemeral in the scenes she gathers and painstakingly paints. She talks about how a moment of “emotional ignition” kindles a work of art. As a writing partner, Verandah Porche befriends, questions and listens, to unearth and preserve the poetry embedded in lived experience. She calls this process “finding the *verse* in conversation.”

A contemporary realist working in oil and watercolor, Kathleen Kolb is known for her dramatic handling of light. [*Vermont Life* magazine featured an article about her paintings of the logging industry in their winter 2009-2010 issue](#) and her work for *Art of Action* focused on the leading edge of the working forest in Vermont. She earned her BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design.

Verandah Porche has created told poems and shared narrative with elders, factory workers, literacy students, patients, and others, during residencies across New England. She holds an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Marlboro College. Despite public concern about climate change and sustainability, many people are unaware of what actual work goes on in the forest surrounding them. Vital ecosystem services provided by the forest are often poorly understood. Though the public relies on the working forest, skilled labor is rarely portrayed or deeply valued. The voices of the loggers, sawyers, and others who work in the forest are absent from conversations about interdependence and care of the planet.

SHEDDING LIGHT includes paintings and drawings, done by Kolb over a twenty-year span, illuminating the wooded landscape and people working in the forest, with accompanying poems and narratives by Porche drawn from the voices of participants. A full color catalog includes visual art, poems, narratives and essays by an art critic and a forestry professional.

Shedding Light On The Working Forest opened at the Brattleboro Museum and Art Center in October 2, 2015, where it was the centerpiece of the Windham Regional Commission's awareness campaign on the working forest economy. The Vermont Folklife Center presented the exhibition during the winter of 2016. Since then it has traveled to sites in Maine and Connecticut.

Shedding Light portrays the unseen work of loggers, foresters, mill operators, artisans and others through the eyes of a skilled artist. Those portrayed describe and reflect on their experience, serving as ambassadors to the public. The project provides diverse opportunities for the public to consider their own relationship to the forest.

If you need additional images or would like to set up an interview, please contact the artist directly at: Kathleen Kolb: kathleenkolb@gmavt.net or 802-453-3593
Verandah Porche: verandahporche@gmail.com or 802-254-2442

www.sheddinglightontheworkingforest.net
www.kathleenkolb.com
<http://verandahporche.com/>

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